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For more information contact:

Ashlee Link, North Dakota Department of Transportation  
Public Information Coordinator 328-4412

Jamie Olson, North Dakota Department of Transportation  
Communications Specialist 328-4444

## **“No Phone Zone Day” Supported by North Dakota Department of Transportation**

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is teaming up with a national campaign against distracted driving tomorrow. The NDDOT will conduct outreach by setting up a booth in the State Capitol across from the cafeteria to pass out pledges for people to sign to have their vehicles become a “No Phone Zone.” The NDDOT is also sending pledges to the District Offices, Driver’s License and Motor Vehicle Offices across the state for the public and employees to consider signing. Electronic road signs will be displayed on Friday, April 30, with a safety message and campaign information will be distributed via the NDDOT’s Facebook page.

“Driving is a privilege and should be your sole responsibility when behind the wheel,” states Mark Nelson, Safety Division Director at the NDDOT. “It only takes two seconds at 65 miles per hour for a vehicle to travel 190 feet. So in the time it takes to send a text message, your car will travel nearly the length of a football field. Be safe, be careful, and stay focused.”

The NDDOT wants to remind you to put safety first when driving. If you need to enter an address in your GPS, send a text, or make a phone call - pull over. With technology advancing, there are more distractions at drivers’ fingertips than years ago. Drivers need to remember that they are driving a 4,000 pound piece of metal that could end a life in a second if they are distracted while driving.

Oprah Winfrey and Harpo Studios launched this campaign to declare Friday, April 30, the first national “No Phone Zone Day.” This large-scale effort to honor victims of distracted driving, “No Phone Zone Day” will also educate and encourage drivers to end the deadly driving habits that kill nearly 6,000 people a year, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The NDDOT supports safety and wants motorists to consider making their vehicle a “No Phone Zone.” Stop by the State Capitol in front of the cafeteria tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and sign the “No Phone Zone Day” pledge. Spread the word about this important safety message and put a stop to distracted driving. To sign the “No Phone Zone Day” pledge online, visit <http://www.oprah.com/nophonezone>.

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